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Immediate Release

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Environment Department Honors Community Request, Moves Hearing for Helena Chemical Air Permit to October 24

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has honored a request from the Mesquite community in Southern New Mexico and moved a public hearing concerning an air quality permit for Helena Chemical Company's fertilizer plant to **Monday, October 24, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish Hall, 125 West Mesquite, Mesquite NM, beginning at 9 am.**

Public comment on this draft permit will be taken at 6 pm on October 24 as well as at several other times throughout the hearing.

In August, NMED released for public comment a draft Air Quality permit for Helena Chemical Company's fertilizer plant in Mesquite, New Mexico. This draft permit includes conditions to limit air pollution emissions from the plant. These include limits on Helena's hours of operation, maximum hourly and yearly capacity limits, as well as specific requirements for monitoring, record keeping, haul road maintenance and air pollution controls for emissions from the handling of materials. The Helena facility is used as a retail agricultural chemical distribution center for Dona Ana County farmers.

NMED is inviting the public to submit written comments on the draft permit during the comment period. Written comments will be accepted until the completion of the public hearing. NMED will not issue a final air quality permit until considering all written comments received from the public and testimony presented at the public hearing.

The draft permit may be reviewed at the NMED Air Quality Bureau in Santa Fe or at the NMED Field Office at 1170 N. Solano in Las Cruces. A draft is also available in Mesquite at the Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association. To receive a copy of the permit, please contact Mike Schneider with NMED's Air Quality Bureau at (505) 955-8000.

Helena Chemical, based in Collierville, Tennessee, has owned the facility in Mesquite since 1989.

For additional information, please contact Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Director at (505) 827-0314.

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